



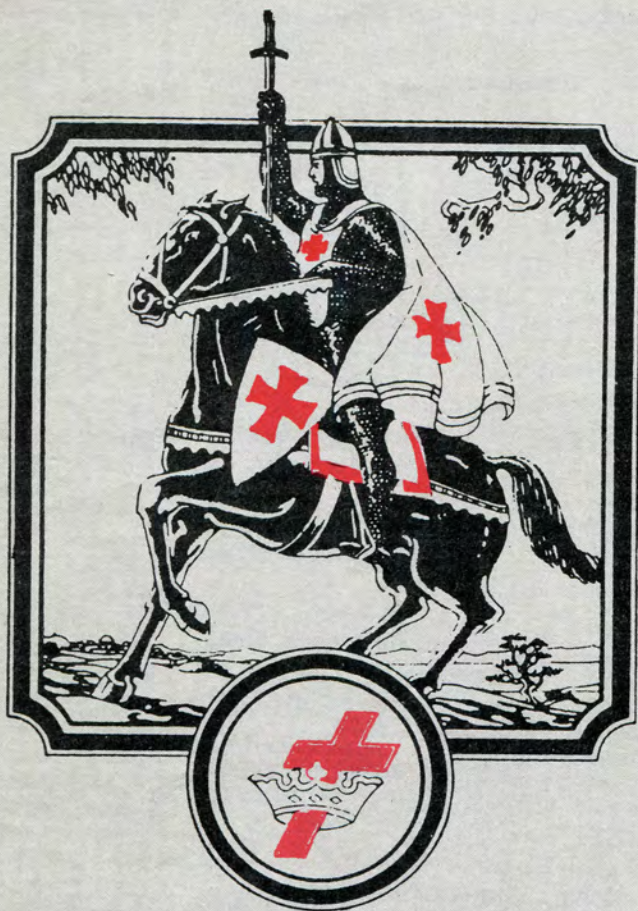
Knight Templar

VOLUME XXI

DECEMBER 1975

NUMBER 12

"Christmas 1975"



KNIGHT TEMPLAR

Templary Salutes



the Bicentennial

DECEMBER: The Templar silhouette on the cover is a Christmas reminder that December marks the 86th consecutive issue of the *Knight Templar Magazine* since it became available to all Templars during the term of Past Grand Master John L. Crofts in the summer of 1969. We thank our readers for their kind expressions of acceptance of the magazine. We thank our printer, Sir Knight Rodney Fleming, for meeting our deadline unfailingly month after month. Especially do we thank our staff for the loyalty, skill and diligence without which the magazine could not be published. Staff greetings are included elsewhere in this issue. From and for them, permit me to wish you a Christmas Season of Joy.

Paul C. Rodenhauer, Editor

DECEMBER 1975

VOLUME XXI NUMBER 12

Official Publication of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

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ASSESSMENT AND PROJECTION

As we look forward to the Holy Day of Christmas and the bright new year ahead, we are reminded that this is an appropriate time to review my some 28 months as your Grand Master, a time to look beyond the present happy season to the pleasing prospects that lie ahead for Templary.

What is past cannot be recaptured or altered, but during the fast moving months from August of 1973 until today each of us can take pride that we — working together — have contained and reduced Templar losses. Statistical returns from our nearly 1,600 Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies show a steady increase in Knightings and, correspondingly, a growing number of Recorders who are reporting consistently, month after month, to keep our Grand Encampment rolls accurate and up to date.

I am deeply grateful for the membership activity created by our Grand Commandery officers, their Commanderies and their members. We all know, however, that there are many, many Christian Masons who have not yet received the opportunity or invitation to join the ranks of Templary and to celebrate with us in our Asylums the birth of the Christ Child. We ask that each Knight Templar continue his membership effort at increased tempo to bring the joys of our Order to Masons worthy of the privilege and honor that lie in our power to bestow.

For the future, I offer the projection for a new period of spiritual and physical growth in accomplishment, prestige and leadership. I predict with confidence that Templary will grow stronger and stronger thru the years, offering greater and greater service not only to those of our Order but to all Masonry everywhere.

Let us look forward confidently to the progressive future of Templary as we celebrate this month the birthday of the great Captain of our Salvation.

I wish for you and yours the rich blessings of Peace and Joy this Christmastide.



Ray Clifford Riegle



The KNIGHT WRITERS

COMMENTS FROM READERS



- ▣ Seals and Stickers Wanted — those issued by Masonic or Allied bodies — to put on mailed letters — new or old. *Harold V. B. Voorhis, 105 New England Avenue B2, Summit, New Jersey 07901*
- ▣ I would like to buy a gold Knights Templar fob in good condition. As a pensioner living in Mexico, I know of no place to purchase one. *W. F. Ransom, Apartado 1004, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico*
- ▣ I obtained a Commandery sword from an antique shop in Chesapeake, Virginia. The name E. S. Guy is engraved upon it. I would like information pertaining to this Sir Knight. *Alvin L. Beedie, 149B Azalea Drive, Eglin AFB, Florida 32542*
- ▣ I have several centennial medals of my home Chapter, Reading, Massachusetts, which any Companion may purchase by sending me two dollars. These were issued in 1972 so there are only a few left.
I would like to hear from any Companion whose Chapter has issued an anniversary medal or other remembrance. I have many, but feel there are many that I am not acquainted with. *Charles F. Maxfield, 17 Mid Ridge Circle, R.R. 2, Londonderry, New Hampshire 03053*
- ▣ I would like to buy or beg all possible Masonic keepsakes, Chapter pennies, books and a copy of *Morals and Dogma*. If you have two of something, quote a price on one of them. *David B. Gwinn, 1200 South 29th Street, Parsons, Kansas 67357*
- ▣ I need volumes 61, 72 and 76 to complete my set of the Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge (A.Q.C.). Will purchase or exchange. Have 12 duplicate volumes to sell or swap. *F. A. Egan, 2001 Longcome Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19810*
- ▣ A friend of mine has a medal he wants to sell to the highest bidder. It is four and one-half inches high. The top, or pin part, reads "Saratoga." On the bottom center is a miniature color picture, about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, of the Surrender of Burgoyne. Above this is written, "Grand Encampment of the U.S." and "K.T."; to the left, "30th Triennial"; to the right, "Conclave," and below the picture, "Grand Com'd'y of N.Y." and "1907."
Anyone interested can write directly to me and I will contact my friend. *Howard L. Althouse, Box 266, R.D. No. 1, New Tripoli, Pennsylvania 18066*
- ▣ I have come across a book, *The Mysteries of Chartres Cathedral* by Louis Carpentier, published in paperback edition by Avon. It gives a fascinating story of the original Templars, their direct relationship with the Gothic architecture, the Ark of the Covenant, the building of and the paying for the great cathedrals of France. I commend this for inspirational reading. *D. H. Sanders, Jr., Recorder, Empire Commandery No. 66, 55 Randall Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10301*
- ▣ If anyone has commentaries on books of the Bible or any books on Spurgeon's sermons that they would like to sell for an economical price, please write. *Talmage S. Richman, P.O. Box 221, Scurry, Texas 75158*

□ I am a Sir Knight in the York Rite Masonic bodies of Ardmore, Oklahoma. I have been housebound and disabled and I was wondering if Sir Knights would send me their duplicate postage stamp covers (first day) or Masonic covers for my collection. If they would pencil a price on them I'll remit at once.

I'll be happy to receive letters from all Sir Knights and I would especially like an Order of the Ark for my collection of York memorabilia. Send me anything you think I would enjoy. *Sir Knight Julius W. Kelley, Jr., 26 5th Street, N.W., Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401*

□ My hobby is collecting old steamboat pictures which were taken on the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers. From these pictures slides are made. . . . Research on each steamboat and these slides are then combined into what I hope have been some enjoyable slide programs for the many interested organizations I have given talks for. If any Sir Knight has some pictures of this nature that he would be willing to part with, I would certainly appreciate hearing from him. *Charles H. Stone, 2105 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Point Pleasant, West Virginia 25550*

□ I have a medallion commemorating the 100th year of Apollo Lodge No. 13, Troy, New York, instituted December 12, 1796. On the reverse is the original seal for No. 49 Troy-Apollo Lodge with the names of the W/M, J/W and S/W for the years of 1796 and 1896. Attached to the medallion is a blue ribbon used to join the clasp with the years "1796-1896" on the clasp. I'm sure that the medal and clasp are bronze (perfect condition).

Also, I have a Past Master's Badge (white medal) of the late Benjamin H. Imeson, P.M. of Green Ridge Lodge No. 597, year 1900. Green Ridge is in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

I would like to put these in the hands of some responsible person connected with the Lodges mentioned. *James P. White, Detroit No. 1 K.T. Commandery, 3948 Rhine Street, Sarasota, Florida 33580*

□ I would like to purchase a Knights Templar sword and scabbard and will keep same in good condition. *S.K. Leo Slevin, 1572 South Cardiff Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90035*

□ The Carteret Council on Aging has appointed me in charge of investigating a merchants discount program in this area.

I am at a loss where to start. If any of the readers are aware of any program that we could copy whereby Senior Citizens are given a discount at pharmacies, dry-cleaning establishments and other similar businesses, I would appreciate any information.

I am a member of the Monumental Commandery No. 3, Knights Templar, Baltimore, Maryland. *Waldo Gray, P.O. Box 548, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina 28512*

□ I would like to commend your excellent magazine. Of all the bodies of Masonry of which I am a member, none have a publication which can approach the excellence of the *Knight Templar*. *Dennis W. Walker, St. Elmo Commandery No. 15, 254 Cross Timbers Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37221*

□ We have had the showing of our first of the scheduled films which the Grand Encampment has made available - The American Flag. Its impact on the viewers was visible and tremendous. . . . Already this morning I have had two telephone conversations about the film.

It is in good taste, beautifully done and most timely. We are most grateful to you for making it available. *Eliza H. Bishop, Executive Officer, American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Houston County, 629 North Fourth Street, Crockett, Texas 75835*

□ The dues cards were received and they are fine. Thank you for the quick service. *Lloyd Backus, Recorder, Delaware Commandery No. 44, 75 Commonwealth Avenue, Middletown, New York 10440*



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

None Such: When you hear "Christian Rossetti" mentioned in your Christmas Asylum observance, please translate to "Christina Rossetti." He is a she.

For the Craft: Bruce H. Hunt, Past Grand Master of Missouri Masons, issues *A Masonic Review* each year filled with pertinent comment and observations about Masonry. His latest Review was "Written for the enlightenment of Missouri Master Masons and distributed at the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Missouri at its annual communication in St. Louis, Mo., September 29, 1975." Sir Knight Bruce also is General Grand Recorder of the General Grand Council and Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Missouri.

Festoons: When the Colonists arrived in this country they noticed that the Indians had no coins for money and used colorful beads instead. Fortunes hung by a single thread! At Christmas time, a mysterious shortage of currency developed. Those early Indians wondered where their beads could be. Then (so 'tis said) they caught sight of a Christmas tree!

Shibboleth: The meaning of Shibboleth is no secret. In biblical times, Jephthah seized the river Jordan and put to rout the forces of Ephraim. He posted sentries at the river to stop all who tried to return to the other side. Tribesmen of central Palestine when stopped were unable to pronounce the "sh" sound and were slain. This test-word has come to mean in standard usage persons whose pronunciation "gives them away" when they come from outside their district.

Supreme Assembly: Mrs. Vermaine H. Sidles, Iowa, Past Supreme Worthy President of the Social Order of the Beauceant, has been appointed Chairman of the *Knight Templar Magazine* Committee. In the current issue are a picture of the new Supreme Worthy President, Mrs. Glenn E. Foster, Indianapolis, and other releases. Also appointed to the committee is Past Supreme Worthy President Mrs. Leslie N. Armstrong, Nebraska.

Bartlett: Robert E. Bartlett, 33°, a member of the Publicity Committee of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Cleveland, thanks our magazine for *Masonic Americana* which he intends to present to the Cleveland Masonic Library. Brother Bartlett says it helped him prepare his 1975 fall reunion program cover and that: "Such fine cooperation between our Masonic bodies is very much appreciated."

Grand Recorder Fitez: George R. Fitez, Grand Recorder, Ohio, tells us that the Grand Commandery sold 470 copies of *Masonic Americana* and 350 Bicentennial Paperweights during its October Annual Conclave in Columbus, also many Bicentennial seals. Furthermore, says Sir Knight George, "we will be ordering more in the future."

Wolfertz: After a severe illness earlier in the year, Past Department Commander Charles B. Wolfertz is back at his desk as this is written. "Doing mostly desk work," says Sir Knight Charles (Past Grand Commander of Pennsylvania), "but grateful and appreciative that recovery has been this good." He is the senior Past Grand Commander of his state.

HIGHEST AWARD FOR TEMPLAR SERVICE

The Knights Templar Cross of Honor consists, physically, of a medal, a certificate and a wallet card. These are outward evidences of one of the highest types of service and devotion which can be given to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle has requested at every convocation and conference of our Order that this award go to those who, by choice or other reasons, have not aspired to high office in their Commanderies but who give true and faithful service, regardless of length or extent, to Templary and consistently exemplify its tenets.

The Grand Master and all Templars during this Christmas Season express appreciation and congratulations to those who received awards during the calendar year of 1975. Several jurisdictions, as indicated below, did not select recipients or present awards during the year.

Only one nomination may be made from a Grand Commandery membership of 10,000 or less, plus one additional nomination may be made by a Grand Commandery for each additional 10,000 of its members or major fraction thereof. Only one nomination may be made from the total of Subordinate Commanderies during the year.

Some of the Grand Commanderies below are entitled to more than the number listed, but restrict the number to further maintain its value.

Alabama	Mobile No. 2	Jesse Allen Bradford
Arizona	Montezuma No. 14	William Curtis Kemble
Arkansas	Hot Springs No. 5	Duval Prey Thornton
California	Fullerton No. 55	Howard Vernal Conner
Colorado	Not Awarded	
Connecticut	Columbian No. 4	Herbert Emerson Lawrence
District of Columbia	Potomac No. 3	John Peter Knapik
Florida	Oriental No. 9	John Edward Dreher
Georgia	Philemon No. 33	George Henry Ballentine, Jr.
Idaho	Not Awarded	
Illinois	Palestine No. 27	Harry Russel Moss
Indiana	Anderson No. 32	John Wesley Pherson
Iowa	Zerubbabel No. 68	Lacey Orrin Tucker
Kansas	Osborne No. 59	Henry Karl Smith
Kentucky	Mayfield No. 49	Fremont William Blume
Louisiana	Istrouma No. 28	William James McFarland
Maine	Maine No. 1	Andrew Mauritz Lund
Maryland	Palestine No. 7	Basil Etherton Moore, Sr.
Mass. & R.I.	Beauseant No. 41	Robert Lind Moore
Michigan	Redford No. 55	Jack N. Shimonishi
Minnesota	Mankato No. 4	Harvey Edward Holtz
Mississippi	Pontotoc No. 40	John Alvis Stewart
Missouri	Palestine No. 17	LeRoy A. Van Loon
Montana	Glasgow No. 13	Lloyd Thomas Eide

→ → →

Nebraska	Joppa No. 17	Lyle T. Piper
Nevada	Lahontan No. 7	Stephen Ray Downs
New Hampshire	DeWitt Clinton No. 2	Burnham Everett Averill
New Jersey	Pilgrim No. 16	Robert Winslow Gibson
New Mexico	Pilgrim No. 3	Robert F. Dilley
New York	St. George's No. 37	Stanley Demeyer Seigler
North Carolina	Palestine No. 20	Clifford Cleophas Dueil
North Dakota	Crusader No. 14	Fred Falstad
Ohio	DeMolay No. 9	Grattan G. Rinker
	Hanselman No. 16	Howard A. Wolf
	Ivanhoe No. 54	Clarence Joe Thomas
	Ben Hur No. 14	Edwin Albert Lane
Oklahoma	Not Awarded	
Oregon	Allen No. 20	Griffith Pritchard, Jr.
Pennsylvania	Centennial No. 55	Arthur Raymond Mullin
	Spartanburg No. 3	Hugh Nettles Layne
South Carolina	Not Awarded	
South Dakota	Murfreesboro No. 10	John Roy Stracener
Tennessee	Alexander Garrett No. 103	Eli Hastings Ackley
Texas	Worth No. 19	Wallace W. Crabtree
	Worth No. 19	John Bevette Hines
Utah	Charles Fred Jennings No. 6	Matthew Gilmour
Vermont	Burlington No. 2	Ralph C. Watson
Virginia	DeMolay No. 4	Bernard Lee Woody
Washington	Palestine No. 11	Edward A. Nelson
West Virginia	Kanawha No. 4	Joseph Carlton Little
Wisconsin	Burlington No. 50	Owen Arthur Lewis
Wyoming	St. John's No. 14	Caryl W. Wilson
Subordinate	W. G. Von Spelton No. 4	Rudolph Hoffer



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT
STAFF

THE THREE FIDELITIES

by

The Rev. Basil L. Johnson
R.E. Grand Prelate, Grand Encampment

There is a mental quicksand into which multitudes have sunk today which would inform us that good things come easily and without venture or struggle. Easy come, easy go would seem to be the mental acceptance of the hour with regard to the high values of life. My friends, it just isn't so!

But what impact can the Mason make, you may ask, upon our present society? The number of Masons is so small compared to the total populace. Recently I read that there were about 3,000 Masons in America at the time of the Revolution. If my memory serves me correctly, history tells us there were about three million people in the country at the same time. That would mean there was only about one tenth of one percent of the population of Masonic persuasion. And yet what a tremendous impact those Masons had upon the thinking of their day.

Years ago I read a story about King Louis IX of France. The historian Guizot says that he was one of the finest Christian gentlemen of his century and greatly beloved by his people. When he was married to Margaret of Provence, he had engraved on the inside of his wedding band three words: God, France, Margaret. "Those," he said, "are my three basic loyalties, and in that order." And from considerable experience in the ministry I would agree; for that one whose first and most basic loyalty is not to God cannot be trustworthy, either to country or to wife. There is a Latin motto: *Semper Fidelis* - "always faithful," which I would like to examine.

"Semper Fidelis" - To God

The first and most basic loyalty, said

King Louis IX, is and must be to God. Fidelity is itself a God-like quality of life. What a holocaust there would be within this universe if for one instant of time God were not faithful. The stars would suddenly rush together without restraint and the great cataclysm of eternity would occur. Recently we have been hearing much about the envelope of the atmosphere which protects our earth from too much of the ultra-violet rays of the sun God put that atmosphere here for our protection and it will remain unless man himself destroys it.

We have been hearing that "perhaps" the enormous use of aerosol cans in our modern product can destroy that atmospheric protection. Whether it can or cannot remains to be seen. Nevertheless, if man should destroy it, it would be his own action; not the action of God. This much I do know; God does not rush in to cushion our own destructiveness. We hold the promise, or the destruction in our own hands. God protects unless we undo His protectiveness.

"God is dead!" shouted Nietzsche at the end of the 19th century. Nobody took him seriously then and he cooperated by going out of his mind. "Today, however," says Douglas Auchincloss, "it is Churchmen, rather than Scientists, who are proclaiming the death of God." At about the same time as Nietzsche was making his declaration, Sigmund Freud began proclaiming that the greatest problem in the human personality was that human beings were making the mistake of thinking they were guilty of immorality, when really it was only their feeling of guilt which was destroying them.

One hundred years later, with many believing in the death of God, → → →

and hence, with there being no reason to fear any future punishment for immorality, great masses of people are quite willing to "thumb-their-noses" at morality of any kind. Does it seem so unusual, then, that our newspapers are filled with the growing crime problem? Does it seem so unusual, then, that we are hearing more and more that even the so-called "respectable people" are being caught cheating, stealing, playing around with the spouses of others and other immoralities and that even if caught, they expect not to be punished in any way?

Fidelity to the moral law of God is not always as easy to measure as the exact physical sciences require. But make no mistake, the law is there and it destroys not only the guilty, but frequently, when the immoralities have become like a flood, even the innocent are carried away with the guilty. God's law is in action even though it is unseen by the physical eye. Fidelity to God and to His law, to His WORD, is our first and basic duty.

"Semper Fidelis" – To our Country

For many years during the course of my work, I discovered there was little popularity awarded to patriotism. We heard much of the fact that "one day we would be citizens of the world." It seemed to many, especially among the sophisticated, that to seem too patriotic smacked of sentimentalism. But may I call your attention to the fact that the individual who is untrustworthy in his love of his own country would be untrustworthy to the world if he DID become a citizen of the world, for all of life is built on trustworthiness.

I well remember one citizen I knew some years ago who was the 100 percent patriot; indeed, he might well have been described as a 200 percent patriot. And then, one day it was discovered that in the political office which he held, he had for a long, long time been cheating his own government financially. A country must rest upon trust in its citizenry or it will be undone.

When will we learn the deep lesson

that disobedience to the moral law of God will ultimately destroy even a great nation? When will we learn the lesson that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people?" When will we learn the lesson that no matter how great a people we claim to be, we are not beyond the power of the Almighty? We need to heed once again the words of Kipling:

"Lord God of hosts be with us yet,
Lest we forget! Lest we forget!"

Almost a century and a half ago one of the greatest of our political leaders, during the dark days of the internal conflict, said, "Many free countries have lost their liberty, and ours may lose hers; but if she shall, be it my proudest plume, not that I was the last to desert, but that I NEVER deserted." Lincoln demonstrated in his life his willingness to be true to that, his assertion.

"Semper Fidelis" – To our Homes

The third fidelity of Louis IX was fidelity to the lovely lady whom he married. Herein lies one of the major problems of our country this very day. Fidelity in the home. Recently I heard a speaker make the comment that "within a short time, three out of every four marriages consummated in this country would end in the divorce court." That is, indeed, one of the major tragedies of our time, for it involves not only the marriage partners, but also the children of the home and the families on each side of the partnership, and finally the social fabric of the country itself.

But to me, an even more serious development of late is the willingness of masses of persons to "have a relationship" without the benefit of vows at all. And, might I add, this is occurring not only among the young, but among the elderly, who say, "By this means I will save my social security payments." Much as we may sympathize with the needy, this is no way to resolve such a difficulty. And this is a very real and growing problem.

For many years in the past. → → →

we have been living on the basis of a "fun philosophy." If it isn't fun, don't do it, even if it may be the right thing to do. If it is fun, go ahead regardless of the consequences. And our "fun philosophy" is of late really taking hold. Rabbi Leviton was quoted in *Quote* magazine some time back as saying: "Many parents seek only happiness for their children. Character becomes secondary. We measure too often the growth of our children by whether or not they have a good time. Civilization could go to pot while our youth is having a good time." And yet, can we blame the youth while so many of their elders lead the way with the kind of life described above?

What, then, is the answer for us as Masons of the Templar persuasion? There is only one answer: Fidelity to the great principles espoused by our Royal Master, despite all the circumstances of the day which weigh against Him. Rudyard Kipling was himself a great Mason. He has a story about a ship which was plowing through the Indian ocean when a storm arose. As the violence of the wind increased one rivet said aloud, "The strain is too great, I am going to have to give up." "You can't do that," hissed the steam, "The ship would come apart."

"I remember in another ship which was in a storm not half so bad as this that a rivet said the same thing, and other rivets began taking up the chorus, and soon the ship split in the center and I had to escape up into the atmosphere as it went down into the sea."

"You say the storm was not half as bad as this one?" queried the rivet." "Yes," replied the steam.

"Cowardly little fellow, wasn't he?" said the rivet. And he settled more firmly into place. As he did so, the steam whispered in his ear, "You are the only rivet in this ship which can save the ship." What he didn't tell the rivet was that he had told every other rivet in the ship the same thing.

I say to you that YOU are the only one in your particular spot who can save our civilization; and it IS true. For if you fail, your influence may cause others of

whom you don't even know to fail of their responsibility too.

Fidelity: first to God; second, to country, and third, to the home.

The above was taken from excerpts of an address given September 12, 1975, at the Banquet sponsored by the Past Commander's Association of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Colorado, by Basil L. Johnson, Grand Prelate, Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the U.S.A.

‡

Bar Association Prexy

Joseph S. Lewis, Ponca City, Oklahoma, was installed President of the Kay County Bar Association in November 6 ceremonies at the Blackwell Country Club as reported by the *Ponca City News*. Sir Knight Lewis, well known nationally, is an active Templar, a 33° Scottish Rite Mason and, among other honors, is a Past Grand Master of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.

Western, Northwestern R.C.C. Events

Intendant General Irvin S. Gress, California Southern, reports that 63 were in attendance at the Western Regional Conference of the United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine, Palm Springs, California, October 24-26. Twelve Conclaves were represented. Next year's Conference has been scheduled at the Hilton, Long Beach, California, adjacent to the Queen Mary.

The Northeastern Conference, with some 300 attending, was held November 7-9 at Buck Hill Falls in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania under the direction of John G. Eshleman, Intendant General for the Order. Next year's gathering in the northeast will be October 21-23 at the Buck Hill resort.



MASONIC BELL NOW IN MEMPHIS

Of all the big coal towboats that operated out of Pittsburgh few were ornamented as much as the Tom Dodsworth. She carried between her stacks a symbol of the Royal Arch Masons, a deer's head on top of the pilothouse, Masonic emblems on the pilothouse bellboard, and Knights Templar emblems on the engines. Needless to say, the Dodsworth's master for many years, Capt. Robert Brauff Robison, was a devoted Mason.

The reader will notice the roof bell on the towboat, sitting farther back than normal, on top of what appears to be the transom. The bell is the real reason of this story. It is still in existence and a feature of the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company's entertainment center in Memphis, where it can be seen mounted next to the Schlitz Belle Levee. The Schlitz Belle is an attractive meeting room with river decor, including gingerbread.



The Tom Dodsworth

The Tom Dodsworth was built in 1871 at Pittsburgh. She was ordered by Capt. James A. Blackmore and others. Capt. Blackmore's name appears on the bell along with the boat's name and the foundry which made the casting, A. Fulton's Son and Company.

Known as the "Hoppin Tom," the Dodsworth held the speed record for a round trip between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati; she took nine loaded coal boats down and brought two empties back in 4 days, 20 hours, 15 minutes.

The boat was 182 by 35 by 6 feet, with engines 28 inches in diameter by 8-foot stroke. There were six boilers, and the sternwheel measured 24 feet, 10 inches, by 25 feet, 10 inches.

S. S. Crump and Company owned the Dodsworth by 1892, and she went into the "Combine" fleet in 1900. In 1915 the Dodsworth was retired. Two years later she was revived for a few months, but then was laid up for good. When dismantled in 1925, Capt. R. J. Hiernaux took the roof bell and installed it on the steamer John F. Klein. The Klein sank at Weirton, West Virginia, September 5, 1929, and since then the bell has changed hands between collectors until it was acquired in 1972 for the Schlitz Belle.

The above article was reprinted from the July 26, 1975 issue of the WATERWAYS JOURNAL, with special permission from Jack R. Simpson, Editor.



Masonic Bell

‡

THE SEAL OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

by
Herbert W. Sumner
Grand Historian, New Jersey
P.C., Recorder, Melita No. 13

This monograph is respectfully dedicated to Sir Knight Louis A. Beaudoin, Northeastern Department Commander, whose kind remarks prompted a serious study of the Seal.

Page 38, Section 116 of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, reads: "The Seal of the Grand Encampment consists of a circle two inches in diameter shaded one-eighth of an inch inside, enclosing a circle one and one-half inches in diameter. Between the outer and inner circles are the words, 'Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A.' Within the inner circle is a representation of a Knight in full armor leaning on his sword, which is grasped by his right hand; his left arm supports a shield, triangular in shape, upon which is emblazoned a cross, the three upper arms of which terminate with a crosshead."

Let us examine each of these elements in turn and see if we can determine any particular significance for ourselves as Knights Templar. These elements are rich in symbolism, as we shall presently discover.

The circle reminds us that as each point on the circumference is equally near to and distant from the center, so each of us is equally near to and distant from his Creator, under whose banner we are now enlisted. It also symbolically reminds us of eternity, where we hope to find everlasting happiness and joy in our future state.

"Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A." reminds us that as Knights of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple, we owe our

allegiance to that Grand Body regardless of our membership in a Constituent or Subordinate Commandery.

The Knight in full armor provides a visible reminder of our symbolic descent from the Knights of the Crusades, who served with such unswerving loyalty and zeal, while waging war upon the enemies of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans and the Christian Religion. It also forcibly reminds us, that in order to ward off approaching danger to ourselves, our families and our country, we must put on the Whole Armor of God as we manfully fight our way and with valor run our course through life.

The left hand from time immemorial has been deemed the weaker part of man. Thus, the Knight leaning on the sword grasped in the right hand teaches us that we must be strong in the Lord. As the sword denotes Justice, Fortitude and Mercy, so may we in strength lean upon these attributes as we continue on the Crusade of life. We may thus reasonably hope for victory, and receive the acclamation of our Saviour, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord."

As an instrument of defense, the shield will enable us to protect and defend ourselves, while we ward off the misfortunes and temptations of life to become better soldiers of Christ. The shape of the shield also serves as a graphic reminder of the Triangle before which we →→→

Theodore F. Voelter, Past Department Commander, writes that a Commandery College was convened October 25 in the Southern Area of New Jersey. In attendance were the Generalissimos, Captain Generals, Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens and Recorders of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey, Southern area.

The morning session covered the following subjects: Leaders and leadership; communications; how to conduct a proper conclave, opening, business, activities and closing; the duties of a good Recorder, and the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration.

A similar seminar will be held for the Commanderies in the Northern part of the state on December 6.



Mrs. Glenn W. Foster, Indianapolis, Indiana, was elected and installed Supreme Worthy President of the Supreme Assembly, Social Order of the Beauceant, Friday, September 26, 1975. Supreme Assembly was held in Portland, Oregon, September 21-26.

Mrs. Foster began her visits to the 209 Assemblies in the United States September 29. Her schedule calls for visitations through December 15 and from January 12 through June 21, 1976. Her visitation to Honolulu Assembly No. 133 will be March 11.

The Supreme Assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant in 1957 adopted the Knights Templar Eye Foundation as a project. This past year the total contribution to the Eye Foundation was \$41,021.22.



... GRAND ENCAMPMENT SEAL

were permitted to bind ourselves to the Vows of our beloved Order.

The cross emblazoned upon the shield terminating in the crosshead suggests the emblem of our Order, founded upon the Christian Religion and the practice of the Christian Virtues. The crosshead may also symbolize the spread of the Christian Religion, or it may be a representation of the cross carried by the Crusaders.

Sir Knight Sumner lives at 12-27 Jerome Place, Fairlawn, New Jersey 07410.

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Triennial Pilgrimage

The Grand Commandery of Wisconsin has announced preliminary arrangements for a pilgrimage to the 53rd Grand Encampment Triennial, Kansas City, Missouri, August 28 to September 2, 1976.

Deputy Grand Commander Leland N. Goetsch offers a choice of chartered air, train or bus transportation to Kansas City, leaving Milwaukee August 26.

Further information is available from the individual Commanderies in Wisconsin.

THE FIRST BANNER OF MALTA

by
Morrison L. Cooke
P.G.C., Kentucky

What is the First Banner of Malta? Why of course it is the banner of Birth. It is representative of the Birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are now in the Christian season known as Advent, which is preparation for the coming of the Christ Child, whose birthday not only Knights Templar, but the whole world commemorates this month.

How great an impact upon the entire human race, not only at the time of His birth, but for all future generations thereafter, did the arrival of that Blessed Infant create. The influence upon men's lives and souls and upon nations and countries as well of that hallowed Presence has never been nearly equalled, nor will it ever be. And yet, as we approach another birthday of this Prince of Peace, we find not that peace which He came to earth to help us obtain but, even in the land of His sojourning, amid the peoples of His own nationality, bloodshed, strife, enmity and the ravages of war.

When will we ever learn that killing and murder and war and aggression will never accomplish any goals or settle any problems? Do we really believe that through threats of powerful super-weapons and super-speed carriers of them that we will repel any aggressor or frighten any would-be attacker? Can we, through might and strength alone, save the world or might we not destroy it in our misguided attempts to defend it?

Do you wonder what this little Baby, once lying in a dirty, cold manger, but now seated enthroned on the right hand of Almighty God, may be thinking this Christmas season as He looks down upon the world and the chaos in which He finds it? Did the Life He lead and the

Death He suffered — all for us — mean so little?

Is there anything we can do about this situation, any way in which we can help? Maybe we can try. During the coming Christmas season, let "Peace on Earth, Good Will to *All Men*" mean something in our hearts and lives. Let us be faithful daily in prayer that the leaders of the world be guided and influenced in their decisions and discussions. Let us *ask* God for Peace and *believe* that we can and will have it. Let us pray for our own protection, yes; also for the deliverance and restoration of those who are oppressed. But let us also pray for the aggressors, those who would destroy us and those who seek to destroy others. We cannot deter them forever with bigger and bigger bombs and threats but God can turn their hearts and provide us with a stronger defense than weapons — the force of Truth and Righteousness against which even the gates of Hell shall not prevail.

This is the Christmas message. Let this Holy Birthday mark the birth of a new faith in our hearts and a new hope in our lives. Then the shouts of "Merry Christmas" will resound all over the world with meaning and lasting tones for all the Christmases to come.

P.G.C. Cooke resides at 4633 Southcrest Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40215.



HIGHLIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS

Greetings from Eye Foundation Staff



Executive Director G. Wilbur Bell, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, presents in this issue the first Christmas salute from the staff of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, 509 South Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Posed and poised for their first group picture are, first row, Pat Zawislak, Bookkeeper, and Kathy Erley, Assistant Bookkeeper. Standing, June Jabusch, Clerk and Stenographer; Pam Bales, Secretary, and Jean Cooper, Applications Coordinator.

1976 Grand Masters' Conference

The Conference of Grand Masters and the Conference of Grand Secretaries, usually scheduled annually in Washington, D.C., will meet in 1976 in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence was written and proclaimed. Dates will be February 15-18, 1976.

Allied Masonic Degrees, normally preceding the Conference of Grand Masters, will meet in Washington February 20-22, 1976.

Never Too Old

"A Knight is never too old to be original and even able in executing an idea by drawing it with steady hand . . ." writes Sir Knight Henry Alexander Magnuson I, whose drawings recently appeared on the cover page of the Ipswich Royal Arch Chapter's monthly news notice.

Sir Knight Magnuson is 80 years old, a member of Newburyport Commandery No. 3, Massachusetts, and Secretary of the Ipswich Royal Arch Chapter. He is also a "helper" on Gordon C. Player's Kitchen Staff where he enjoys "preparing and serving gourmet dinners to various Masonic functions." Sir Knight Magnuson looks with enthusiasm at "being a serving brother in the vineyard of Masonry."

J. Fred Reinhardt Class



Twenty-four members of the J. Fred Reinhardt Class received Commandery Orders October 25 in Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Commander Charles A. Garnes says the class was named in honor of Sir Knight J. Fred Reinhardt, "a member of the Commandery and an outstanding citizen of the community."

Sir Knight Reinhardt presented the class with a Glass Bottom Tankard, engraved with the Commandery name, class name, date and Knights Templar emblem.

Members of the class are pictured above.

Triennial Reservations

Reservations for the 53rd Triennial Conclave at Kansas City, Missouri, August 28-September 2, 1976, are available by writing to the CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU, 1221 BALTIMORE STREET, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64105.

According to Chairman Merlin R. Grundy, in order that a fair distribution can be made to the greatest numbers of persons, all rooms will be on a "first come, first served" basis. Reservations will be made by the Convention and Visitor's Bureau with Voting Members of the Grand Encampment and Distinguished Guests having priority at the headquarters hotel, the Muehlebach.

There is a wide range of hotels in the immediate vicinity of the headquarters hotel. No block reservations can be made by the Bureau. The name of each guest must be listed. Housing requests will not be accepted by telephone. All reservations must be made before July 15, 1976.

Advance program schedules of events have been mailed to all Grand Encampment Voting Members, to all Constituent and Subordinate Recorders and to each Commander. Information may be secured from them. It is noted that the schedule represents a preliminary mailing. Order forms and later releases will be distributed early in 1976.

New Type

Several readers have suggested that our type size be increased for *Knight Writers* and *Editor's Comments*. Even though only a few readers took the time to write, it was felt that they could be representative of a larger number.

For them, and for any who found the 8 point type difficult to read, the *Knight Templar Magazine* announces the new format effective this month — as a Christmas offering.

Eye Foundation Awards Grant



The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. recently awarded a \$12,000 grant to the Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pennsylvania. Shown presenting the check are, left to right, Harry W. Cromis, Eminent Commander of Calvary No. 37, Danville; John B. Cottrell, Jr., trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.; F. Kenneth Ackerman, Jr., administrative director, Geisinger Medical Center; Melvin Evans, Division 14 Commander; Warren R. Williams, Pennsylvania Eye Foundation chairman, and Dave Smeltz, Past Eminent Commander, Calvary No. 37, Danville.

The grant will enable Geisinger's Department of Ophthalmology to conduct clinical research involving ultra-sound echographic diagnosis of detached retina, presently undetectable due to blood in the eye.

Vinyl Bumper Stickers

The Ladies' Auxiliary of Kenwood Lodge No. 800 A.F. & A.M., Blue Island, Illinois, celebrates the Bicentennial of America by offering a vinyl bumper sticker at \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00.

These stickers are in red, white and blue. The size is 4 3/4" x 17". They are guaranteed by the manufacturer for one year not to fade and to peel off easily after one year.

Orders and checks payable to "Ladies' Auxiliary — Kenwood Lodge No. 800," may be sent to Mrs. Frank Kazmark, 8650 South Sayre, Burbank, Illinois 60459.

Scottish Rite Salute and Queen, Too

York Rite Night was observed November 7 by the Valley of Long Beach in California with Grand Master of Grand Encampment, Sir Knight Roy Wilford Riegle, 33°, as principal speaker. The dinner, entertainment and gifts to distinguished guests were hosted by the Valley of Long Beach with Gordon R. Merrick, General Grand High Priest, and Owen L. Shanteau, General Grand Master R. & S.M., present. Sir Knight Merrick is a 33° Southern Jurisdiction, Sir Knight Shanteau the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Among the 33° guests introduced by Department Commander John B. Nye, 33°, were Clarence K. Jones, Charles K. A. McGaughey, Bruce H. Hunt, Marshall McConnell, Ned E. Dull and Paul C. Rodenhauer — also Grand Treasurer Harold S. Gorman. The ladies of the individuals presented were in attendance.

An evening of spirited music and songs preceded the address of Grand Master Riegle and the presentation of gifts by the Mayor of Long Beach, Brother Thomas Clark. Music was presented by Newell Parker, K.C.C.H., Orlo M. Rolo, 33°, and vocalist James E. Wickalander, 32°.

Seated in the East were Guests Merrick, Shanteau, Grand Master Riegle; J. Everett Houser, 33°, Chairman, Inspector General Advisory Conference; John B. Nye and Roland R. Bach, 33°.

The full day of November 8 was devoted to separate Regional Conferences aboard the Queen Mary. Department Commander Nye conducted the five-state Grand Encampment Conference; Clarence K. Jones, D. D. Grand High Priest, the Chapter sessions, and Marvin J. Baker, Representative of the General Grand Master, R. & S.M., the Council conferences.

Earl A. Spitler, Arizona, was Moderator for the York Rite combined question and answer session the night of November 8. The 1976 Regional Conference will be scheduled November 6 in Reno, Nevada.



Valley of Long Beach Masters



At the Scottish Rite Dinner



Past Department Commander Dull



Presiding Chairman John B. Nye at banquet.



Grand Master's Conference on the Queen Mary

JUST WHAT IS THE GOSPEL TRUTH?

by

Victor O. Langen

Ivanhoe No. 24, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

A recent radio broadcast by a well known religious commentator stated the Gospel meant the "good news" that Jesus Christ would return to earth and establish the perfect kingdom of God. How much of that statement is really true? How often do we hear people refer to an authoritative secular compilation as their "bible" or a statement as being the "gospel truth?" It is such common practice we merely accept their intent without taking exception to the remark as being irreverent. Of course, everyone knows that the Holy Bible is a book, or rather a collection of books and letters, which comprises both Old and New Testament. The true meaning of the "Gospel," however, is not really understood by most people.

Very simply stated, the Gospel literally means the "good news" which Jesus Christ of Nazareth brought to the world. Almost 2,000 years ago, it suddenly appeared on the horizon of the mind of man like a rainbow after a dark and dismal day. It is the message of God's love for man which can reconcile man to God and redeem him from the sins of the world. It shows the way to the kingdom of heaven on earth and teaches us to live with true love.

How this message came to the world in the person and life of Jesus Christ is the story of the Gospels. We have direct testimonies from many who were alive at the time of Christ, personally knew him or who received the Word from one who had heard and seen the Word Incarnate. Dr. James Moffatt, one of the pioneers in translating the New Testament into modern English and a member of the committee which prepared the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, refers to

the classical literature of early Christianity as "springing from the vitality of men who remembered Jesus, who were conscious of living in personal fellowship with Him as their Lord and who expected His return."

The original Gospel was orally delivered through the teachings of Jesus Christ and by His example. He left nothing of record other than the memories of Him and His words in the minds and hearts of those who heard and saw Him. These personal recollections were told and retold. People of those times were not only accustomed to hearing and telling others, but were actually trained in the skills and techniques of memorization and repetition. This oral tradition was an essential part of the lives of people going back centuries before the birth of Christ. Neither paper nor printing had been invented, and very few people could either read or write. Papyrus, parchment and inks were rarely available. Only portions, fragments and pieces of the greatest story ever told slowly flowed into the recorded word which ultimately formed the New Testament. Among the many accounts only a few were able to survive the test of authenticity.

Of the Protogospels which finally remained to be canonized, we have three "Synoptic Gospels" and the "Gospel of John." These four "authors" compiled their separate accounts, each in his own way, with differing emphasis, literary skill and expression. Essentially each author directed his composition to a particular audience, a particular church of Christian believers. The common denominator was each writer's religious conviction and faith in Jesus Christ. None were ever intended to be either →→→

historical accounts or biographies and their works are not necessarily in exact chronological order. Many sections were fitted into place for purely literary reasons.

When we look at the Bible we do not see a static record of events or people. We see "a living book" in the sense that the Holy Spirit is constantly taking the Word and applying it to the circumstances and needs of people in each succeeding generation. The gospels illuminate a unique religious message from the life, actions and words of Jesus. All give fervent witness to the fact He was a living person. We can feel "they enjoyed a new relationship with God" for which they were indebted to Jesus!

Some readers seem to put a great deal of weight upon particular variations which can be found. For example, the words of the derisory title affixed to the cross all differ from each other in detail. But it is interesting to note that they all contain the same words, "The King of the Jews." One says he was offered "wine mingled with myrrh;" another says "vinegar mixed with gall." We know that wine can turn to vinegar, but they all probably refer to a mixture of sour wine and water, a common drink of the Roman soldiers.

Despite the distinctive characteristics of each there is a considerable amount of similar or almost identical material. Nevertheless, the many differences only serve to underscore their validity in reporting the same events as seen through different eyes, told through different lips, hence with somewhat different interpretations.

Aramaic was the language spoken by Jesus and most of the people in the vicinity of His travels around Palestine. Unfortunately, the idioms of that language lose something of their local color and meaning in the translation, except by those who had a great depth of understanding in the respective tongues. Although the oldest available manuscripts were written in Greek, it is commonly believed that a text containing many of the sayings of Jesus had been transcribed

in Aramaic. Attributed to Matthew, it is thought to be one of the first attempts at recording the words of Jesus. There is a theory, too, that the Synoptic Gospels drew from a common source, a non-existent document referred to as "Q" (from the German word "quelle," meaning "source").

While there may be some discrepancies among the Gospel accounts, the unique styles of each more than make up for any differences. As Biblical consultant Moffat said, "The variety of their points of view only brings out their concentration of interest upon the central figure of their story." Each interpretation should be examined separately as an entity in itself.

Matthew

The Gospel according to Matthew is addressed to Christians of the "chosen race," Jews, and particularly those of the church at Jerusalem. Special attention is given to portraying Jesus as the Messiah, Son of David, Son of Abraham. The proclamation is the words of the Prophets have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We see His life and death not as just extraordinary events but as the actual realization in history of the age-long plan and purpose of "The Holy One." Jesus is here presented as the Messiah that was to come and by whose words and life man may approach Divine forgiveness. His followers will be that remnant which is "the true Israel." We can see the nature of life in the kingdom of heaven and learn the teachings of Christ through His ministry.

The Apostle Matthew, also known as Levi, was a self-styled "publican" and tax collector. Since he was a companion of Jesus, his work is considered a personal witness account with self-effacing humility. Some find it to be less picturesque than the other versions. It generally follows a somewhat chronological format but essentially it is grouped by subject matter. This narrative is considered to be the most evangelistic.

The sayings of Jesus are thought to have been written by Matthew in Aramaic from a collection of oral traditions around 55 A.D. These were believed to have been translated into →→→

Greek around 80 A.D. as a main part of a new rendition of the Gospel to which Matthew's name was carried over. In the meantime, Mark's complete Gospel became available in Greek and a large section of his work was included in the later "Matthew" text. So there is a possibility, at least, that the so-called lost "Q" edition in original Aramaic may actually be the original "oracles" of Jesus as assembled by the Apostle Matthew.

Mark

The Gospel according to Mark is addressed to Gentiles, proselytes to Judaism, and in particular to the Christians in the Church at Rome. We are particularly impressed by the superhuman powers of Jesus, His supernatural acts and a succession of mighty works. We see miracles which attest to the presence of God's power and His kingdom. The story of this gospel proclaims the triumph of the Messiah over all the powers of darkness.

John Mark was the "interpreter" of Peter and a frequent companion of the Apostle. He was also an associate of Paul, a cousin of Barnabas and the son of Mary, whose home was frequently used as a meeting place for the early Christian leaders. He may have been the youth whose clothes were torn off during a scuffle at the time of Christ's arrest at Gethsemane. His composition gives the impression of direct testimony in picturesque true-to-life details and is written in an unsophisticated colloquial Greek with frank and vivid realism. His vigorous descriptions are direct and concrete. Although the exact sequence as to time and place do not seem to be his main concern, he captures a feeling of urgency and action. It is generally agreed he wrote the earliest rendition of the Gospel somewhere around 60 A.D.

Luke

The Gospel according to Luke is a model of Greek prose and is frequently called "the most beautiful book" ever written. At least, it exhibits great literary skill, a sense of historic import and a mastery of idiomatic expression.

Although the writer uses more sophisticated phraseology, it is extraordinarily vivid. It was addressed to the Greeks, converted heathens and pagan converts, but written for the salvation of all mankind. From the words of Luke we can see the humanity of Jesus; the ideal, universal man; Son of Man and Savior. Here is the living heart of Christ. His message is good news to the poor, the weak and suffering, captives and outcasts. Women are introduced in a new and happier light. It is a message of joy with singing and thanksgiving but packed with religious doctrine. With some interest we note that instead of tracing the ancestry of Jesus back to Abraham, father of the Jews, he records the lineage back to Adam, father of all mankind.

At the time when he wrote his Gospel in either Caesarea or Rome, shortly before 70 A.D., Luke had available Mark's Gospel as well as the oracles of Jesus in the Aramaic language as attributed to Matthew. He undoubtedly used a considerable amount of other material, some of which may have been collected by Saul of Tarsus during his early exploits (while persecuting Christians).

Luke was known as the "beloved physician" who was Paul's companion and whose knowledge of Christianity he records. The "Acts of the Apostles" is considered the sequel to his Gospel and it is referred to as the first historical literature of the Christian Church.

John

The Gospel according to John differs quite radically from the other gospels both in theme and style. It is concerned primarily with life, love and truth as well as with the relationship between Jesus Christ, Son of Man, Son of God and God as our Father. This message is addressed to professing Christians who were brought up in the Jewish tradition and especially to the Christian church at Ephesus. Here is a vivid witness to Jesus as the Son of the Living God, the Word Incarnate, the Light of the World. This spiritual Gospel expressly maintains the deity of Jesus, that is to say, His divinity. "The Word became flesh and → → →

dwelt among us." It is the revelation of God as Spirit manifesting itself as reality and love in the person of Jesus with grace and truth. The words of Christ are emphasized more than His activity. This version dwells more upon the ministry of Christ in Judea, records more visitations to Jerusalem and seems to require a greater span of time than any of the Synoptic Gospels. More precise topographical references are included. There is a metaphysical or mystical quality about it, a difference in design, tone and the nature of its spiritual teaching. "Eternal life is not so much a future phase of being as a present relation of the soul to Christ, and the idea of His return from heaven is transmuted into the conception of His spirit entering the human spirit through faith," Dr. Moffatt said.

The Apostle John was, by his own expression, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" and whom Jesus called "the Son of Thunder." Traditionally he is credited with the composition although many scholars believe it was prepared by a disciple of John during the Apostle's later years. In any event, it is quite obviously a Jew writing in a foreign language to a largely non-Jewish community. At the time of Christ John was a rather young fisherman but his education and experience were probably not neglected by his father Zebedee who owned a fleet of fishing boats operated with the help of his sons.

The oldest fragments of Johannine script date back no later than about 130 A.D.; however, the original text is believed to have been written in Ephesus in about 100 A.D.

The manner and style in which the Gospels were presented during the first century A.D. was a departure from the ancient literary forms. This sets them apart with a distinction of their own. Nor is there any counterpart in early Christian literature to the book of Leviticus: no code of rules or orders for worship. The Gospels were directed toward the community concerns of existing societies of Christian fellowship. From the beginning Christianity, by its

very nature, has been and must be an ongoing and outgoing mission by a community of dedicated believers. It continues to move forward beyond sound barriers, with the leading edge penetrating the darkness.

Christian martyrs prove that, when necessary, they have given and will continue to give their lives to preserve and extend the Gospel of Christ. The Bible has been purchased for us by the very life blood of those dedicated souls who carry the torch of Light forward into the darkness of the ever present instance. While our liberties are less appreciated until threatened or lost, religious faith gains strength from usage.

Sir Knight Langen resides at 2805 North 27th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210.

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Decals Offered



Hanselmann Commandery No. 16, Cincinnati, has prepared a decal to support the 8th Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. According to Commander Fred Shepherd, Jr., decals are available at \$1.00 each from Lonnie Jackson, Chairman, 2169 Glenside Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45212.

Sir Knight Shepherd says that all money cleared to this project will be turned over to the Campaign.

IN SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY

by

Sir Knight Harry M. Smit

Senior Warden, Damascus Commandery No. 42

The Knights Templar Movement in some jurisdictions has been experiencing a decline in membership. As a result, the Order has been most properly concerned with how it might resurrect itself and where needed, breathe new life into its magnificent possibilities.

Most of our present emphasis seems to be devoted to the presentation of ritual for admission of new members. We do not seem to devote very much time or real thought to anything other than the presentation of our Orders. We do not usually ask ourselves what our new members will involve themselves in, other than the presentation of ritual for receiving other new members. We tend to overlook the fact that most members are attracted to a group on the basis of that group's projects.

As a general test, a project should meet two qualifications: (1) It should be a selfless endeavor, of great help to others, and (2) it should be sufficiently novel and unique that it would inspire the giver.

Upon close examination, many of our projects today are not meeting this test. This is because social agencies, Social Security, the welfare system and other fraternal organizations are already involved in the same areas. Thus, our members are not inspired, and too often we are left with giving only lip service to a project being performed, often times better, by other institutions.

The one truly unique portion of our ritual and Order, and in which no other institution or agency is involved, is, "the defense of the Christian religion."

In this regard, let us look at the present status of the Christian religion. Statistics tend to indicate that most

churches of the Christian religion are declining, both in membership and income. There are, of course, some branches of Christianity which are experiencing an upsurge, but this is not the general case throughout the entire Christian movement.

In addition, it should be noted that there are many members of the Christian clergy who are abandoning their ministries to go into other fields of endeavor. Most of the men who are leaving the ministry today cite, among other reasons, a general lack of enthusiasm, insufficient public recognition, intangible results from their ministry and insufficient pay for themselves and their families. At best, a minister can look forward to a very low retirement pay after he has devoted many years of faithful service to the Christian movement. Sometimes a particular congregation will, in honor of a minister's long years of service, award a minister a trip to the Holy Land as a retirement present. Interestingly enough, the ministers who have visited the Holy Land are highly enthused with the importance and significance of Christianity upon return to their homes. The unfortunate fact is that these retired ministers are then too old to actively minister anymore, and as a result their new enthusiasm and fire cannot be actively spread among the members of their congregation, and thence the public at large, to further the Christian movement.

It is important to note that virtually every Christian clergyman would like to go to the Holy Land because of its tremendous history and importance to the Christian movement. Again, because of the fact that there is only a → → →

limited amount of money available to a clergyman, this trip to the Holy Land, which could do so much to spark new interest and enthusiasm, is put in a secondary place of importance because of presumed more pressing financial needs of the clergyman and his family. As a matter of fact, in earlier times, the Pilgrims once placed a trip to the Holy Land as the most important journey they could undertake in their life.

Knights Templar are, in fact, the only remaining guardians of the spirit of Christianity.

The entire Templar Movement can solve its membership problem, as well as take a giant stride to solve the problem of declining interest in Christianity, by taking a selfless step and devoting itself specifically to returning to its original purpose.

To understand Templary as it exists today, one must refer to its history. By reference to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. 9 of the Micropedia, Page 879, Templars are discussed as follows:

"Templars, in full Poor Knights of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, a religious military order of knighthood established at the time of the Crusades. It was founded during the early years of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, when the crusaders controlled only a few strongholds, and pilgrims to the holy places were often endangered by marauding Muslim bands. Pitying the plight of such pilgrims, eight or nine French Knights, led by Hughes de Payens, vowed in late 1119 or early 1120 to devote themselves to their protection and to form a religious community for that purpose.

"Baldwin II, king of Jerusalem, gave them quarters in a wing of the royal palace in the area of the former Jewish Temple, and from this they derived their name. They performed courageous service, and their numbers increased rapidly, partly because of the propaganda writing of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, who wrote their rule of life. Gradually the Templars diversified their activities. They continued to escort pilgrims; but they also became a powerful army right to

fight all 'infidels' threatening Christianity, and they acquired considerable wealth, with properties scattered throughout Europe. They adopted absolute secrecy to cover all their internal activities.

"Fear of the Templars' power and a desire for their wealth led King Phillip IV the Fair, of France, to seek their destruction in the early 1300's. He accused them of heresy and immorality, succeeded eventually in having Pope Clement V suppress the order (March 22, 1312), and two years later had the grand master, Jacques de Molay, burned at the stake. The Templars have been pointed to as the ancestors of various groups, notably the Freemasons, for whom rites of initiation are important."

I submit that it is not mere coincidence that Templary and Christianity are simultaneously on the decline. I further suggest that the prescription for the cure of the ills of Templary is the same cure for the ills of Christianity.

It is my proposal that Knights Templar return to their original purpose. We should, in fact, escort Pilgrims to the Holy Land. But the Pilgrims of today should be the leaders of the Christian movement, which is, of course, the clergy.

As the clergy cannot financially afford to go to the Holy Land, they should be sent there, without cost to themselves. All costs should be borne by Knights Templar.

Their exposure to the Holy Land should be geared to inspire them to the utmost, so that on their return to their ministry they will thereafter become inflamed with a new and lasting life-long fervor to spread the Christian word.

If the ministry as a body is inspired, the entire world will become inspired as well, and Christianity will have a new birth and resurrection.

The clergy, while in the Holy Land, will need to be housed. It is my proposal that a Knights Templar Asylum be constructed in the Holy Land, a portion of which will be devoted to the housing of the visiting clergy. The balance of the Asylum will be reserved for → → →

Knights Templar work, and would serve as a world-wide focus point for Knights Templar everywhere.

Upon accomplishing this, the Christian movement will blossom and we will have simultaneously fulfilled our historic purpose, and be resurrected.

Henceforth we would be known as the Order that sends Christian clergy to the Holy Land, expense free. Further, our ritual, and especially the Order of the Temple, will have not only a symbolic but a new and vital practicing meaning as well.

A most natural question regarding this project would be: How will the project be financed? Let me first remark that it is my understanding that labor in the Holy Land is very reasonable. Therefore, it would not be overly expensive to staff a tour guide, hotel keepers, and cooks in the Jerusalem Asylum. The most expensive costs might be relative to transportation. I am relatively certain that we could obtain substantial discounts in air transportation. Another interesting aspect is that it would be better not to raise membership dues, and instead find a common fund-raising project which would catch the public sympathy and eye, and within which all Knights Templar could participate, much as the Shrine does with its circus. We would be certain to continue to generate enthusiasm among our members by doing this.

The next question most probably would be: How should we specifically select a clergyman? I feel that this is something which could be worked out at a later point, without too much difficulty. As a matter of fact, it would be my hope that eventually every Christian clergyman who so desired would be sent by our Order.

The scope of this suggestion, I fully realize, is vast, but it is also completely possible. Upon our implementing our Jerusalem Asylum project, I am certain that we would be starting a New Crusade. Only this Crusade would not be fought with a sword, but would be in the modern sense of a Crusade, as denoting a

common endeavor in a worthy cause. Once we are so united, our Order will grow and Christianity will flourish.

Then we will truly be known as the Order whose deeds of charity and pure beneficence have spread their fame both far and wide.

Sir Knight Smit is Chairman of the Goals Sub-Committee of the Membership Committee of Grand Commandery, State of Michigan. His office as Counsellor at Law is located at 13990 Merriman Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154.



Beauceant Contributions Continue



Mrs. O. Lea Underwood, President of Baytown Assembly No. 153, presented a \$500.00 donation from Baytown Assembly No. 153, Social Order of the Beauceant, to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in honor of Kenedy Commandery No. 61, Baytown, Texas.

Commander Rex J. Baker accepted the donation. The release was submitted by Mrs. V. H. Sidles, Iowa, Past Supreme Worthy President, Chairman, *Knights Templar Magazine* Committee.

Easter Service Information

Details of the 1976 Easter Sunrise Service can be secured for advance planning by writing to the Chairman, Sir Knight Marvin E. Fowler, at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, Washington, D.C. 22301.

VIEWS AT SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°, S.J.

Illustrious Brother Henry C. Clausen, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, Supreme Council, 33°, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, presided for the October Biennial Session in Washington, D.C. Committee Week was in progress October 15-18; Session Week began Sunday, October 19 and concluded with the conferral of the Thirty-third Degree at 4:30 p.m. October 23, prior to the Biennial Banquet honoring distinguished Guests, Actives, Deputies, Officers of the Supreme Council, Thirty-third Degree Masons and their ladies in the Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel.

Representing Grand Encampment 33° Scottish Rite Masons were Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle, Grand Encampment; Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, Executive Director, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauer. The United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine, was represented by Grand Sovereign Hoyt McClendon.



Distinguished guests were present from a number of foreign jurisdictions and the Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Among the number of Past Grand Commanders to receive the 33° conferral was Sir Knight Herbert D. Sledd, Chairman Grand Encampment Committee on Jurisprudence.



Past Grand Master Bell and Grand Master Riegle are shown with the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the District of Columbia, William E. Eccleston. The occasion was the Sovereign Grand Commander's Monday luncheon.

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The Court of Honour was convened by Sovereign Grand Commander Clausen at October 20 dinner. Grand Cross and certificate went to Past Grand Master of Florida Masons, J. Lewis Hall. A second presentation was to Dr. M. Graham Clark, School of the Ozarks, Imperial Chaplain of the Shrine.

Triple Installation at Flathead Lake

Sir Knight John E. Roberts, unable to attend the Annual Convocations in Montana, receives the benefit of a three-way installation ceremony at the Flathead Lake property of Dr. Robert E. Danskin, Grand Commander of Montana.



Charles A. Creon, Grand Master of R. & S.M., installed Companion Roberts as Grand Chaplain. He was also installed Grand Chaplain by Walter E. McKerrow, Grand High Priest of Montana. The third installation of Sir Knight Roberts, as Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Montana, was performed by Grand Commander Danskin.

Northwestern Department Conference

Department Commander John W. Givens presided for the Northeastern Regional and Department Conference November 1-2 at Boise, Idaho, with a full complement of Chapter, Council and Commandery members present to participate.

In charge of arrangements was Sir Knight Merlin F. Purcell, Past Grand Commander, and Mrs. Purcell, who received ladies attending. The 1976 Conference will be in Boise October 30-31.



Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle, Executive Director G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., are shown with Department Commander Givens at Boise. The session was attended by Grand Recorder Rodenhauer, and General Grand Chapter, General Grand Council leaders.

ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT



C. V. McLAIN, JR., Editor
P. O. Box 262, Mobile, Alabama 36601

LEE COMMANDERY COMPLETES MEMORIAL CLASS

Lee Commandery No. 45, Knights Templar, Phenix City, Alabama, completed the "Fall Section" of the "Sir Knight Troy Adams York Rite Memorial Class" with the creation of fourteen new Sir Knights on Saturday, August 30, 1975. The "Spring Section" of the Class saw twelve Companions Knighted for a Class total of twenty-six.

The members of the Fall Class included: Barney R. Baker, Thomas F. Boswell, Johnny E. Faust, Robert L. Faulkner, Wesley M. Baylord, John R. Harty, Mahlon Hasting, Ronnie E. Henry, Curtis A. Horne, Jerry L. Horne, Sr., Otis N. McIntyre, Jr., Louie V. Olds, Ralph M. Savage and James Cantrell. Sir Knight Cantrell was a courtesy candidate of St. Aldermer Commandery, Columbus, Georgia.

Present and participating in the conferring of the Order of the Temple were many prominent York Rite Masons from around the State, including six Officers of the Grand Commandery of Alabama and three Past Grand Commanders of Alabama and one Past Commander from the State of Georgia. Present were: Sir Knights McMurray L. Griffith, R.E. Grand Commander; William M. Newsome, Jr., V.E. Deputy Grand Commander; Thomas W. Mann, E. Grand Recorder; Thomas W. Oliver, E. Grand Recorder Emeritus; Arthur C. Harding, E. Grand Standard Bearer, and Bill L. Smith, E. Grand Sentinel, all of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Alabama. Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Alabama were: Sir Knights Emrys W. John and Anthony V. Jannett, and Sir Knight J. Willard Register, of the Grand Commandery of Georgia.

The other Grand York Rite Officers, past and present, included: Sir Knights Lloyd D. Durden, Past Ex. Grand High Priest and Past Grand Ill. Master; Sam L. Garrett, Ex. Grand Master of the 1st Veil, of Alabama, and Felix Gersten, Ex. Grand Master of the 3rd Veil of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia.

Also present were fifteen Past E. Commanders, including Sir Knight W. J. Vance, Getheemone Commandery, El Dorado, Arkansas, and Sir Knights Emory W. Smith, Aubrey S. Wilhite and Sam R. Winborn, of St. Aldermer Commandery, Columbus, Georgia.

A delicious steak dinner followed the conclusion of the "Sir Knight Troy Adams Memorial Class."

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER AND COUNCIL MEET IN CLEVELAND

The 56th Triennial Session of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, and the 32nd Triennial Session of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, International, met in Cleveland, Ohio, September 28 – October 2, 1975, with Gordon R. Merrick of Fort Collins, Colorado, presiding over the General

Grand Chapter, and Hoyt McClendon of Birmingham, Alabama, presiding over the General Grand Council.

Attending from Alabama were: Companions McMurray Griffith and Mrs. Griffith; Fred Gentry and Mrs. Gentry; Milton Fegenbush and Mrs. Fegenbush; Ernest Bishop and Mrs. Bishop; Troy Roberts and Mrs. Roberts; Thomas W. Mann and Mrs. Mann; Hoyt McClendon and Mrs. McClendon; Gus Gadd and Mrs. Gadd; Oliver Harris and Mrs. Harris; Ray Rutledge; Lloyd Durden; Charles Guthrie and Ray Hartwell.

At the traditional banquet, the Most Puissant General Grand Master, Hoyt McClendon, was presented a York Rite watch by Companion Lloyd Durden, on behalf of all the Royal and Select Masters of Alabama.

Companion McMurray L. Griffith was appointed Regional Deputy General Grand Master for the Southeastern Region for the 1975 – 1978 Triennium.

The next Triennium will be held in 1978 in Denver, Colorado.

LEE COMMANDERY HOLDS INSPECTION

On Thursday, October 2, 1975, Lee Commandery No. 45, Knights Templar, held its annual inspection with twenty-two Sir Knights present and in uniform. The Inspecting Officer was Sir Knight William M. Newsome, Jr., V.E. Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Alabama.

Distinguished visitors present for the inspection included Sir Knight Felix Gersten, Ex. Grand Master of the 3rd Veil of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia, and Sir Knight Harry E. Wells, Assistant Grand Deputy of the Fourth District of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia.

ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, has established the "Royal Arch Research Assistance," a program for a very real Royal Arch Philanthropy that will make Royal Arch Masonry stand for more than ritualistic degrees. It will be a program of getting down to the business of assisting our fellow men in areas where there has been little research. The initial interest is to help those who are trying to overcome the difficulties of poor hearing in children.

Authorities estimate that perhaps 25% of the school children suffer, to some degree, from the inability to sort out sounds and therefore have problems of learning, associating with other children and developing in a normal manner. These are the poor learners and discipline problems because they cannot use sound as the average child does. They are on their way to becoming drop-outs, misfits and discontents. Statistics show that 90% of the delinquents have one or more forms of hearing disabilities.

The situation is not hopeless. Progressive research at Colorado State University indicates remedies are possible but much more research and testing is necessary. Here is the opportunity of Royal Arch Research Assistance to assist those who suffer from Sensory Perception difficulties to use their normal intelligence.

Dr. Jack Willeford of Colorado State University believes this problem is usually due to brain damage at birth and, with his staff, is assisting many to relieve or overcome this handicap.

Dr. Chester Poremba, Chief Psychologist at Children's Hospital in Denver, says, "Ninety percent of juvenile delinquents have clinically diagnosable learning problems and we're finding children with learning problems faster than we're training teachers to handle them."

IN HALLOWED MEMORY

Herbert T. White

Nebraska
Grand Commander — 1961
Born November 21, 1897
Died October 12, 1975

Melvin B. Blake

District of Columbia
Grand Commander — 1949
Born March 25, 1899
Died October 14, 1975

Herbert Roland Trolle

Connecticut
Grand Commander — 1963
Born May 17, 1907
Died October 17, 1975

Chester Giles Taylor

Idaho
Grand Commander — 1928
Born November 20, 1883
Died November 2, 1975

December 1775

On December 3, 1775, a naval Lieutenant named John Paul Jones raised the official American flag on the *Alfred*. This act by Brother Jones is cited by most historians as the first time the *official* flag was raised. It carried 13 stripes and the Union Jack in the canton.

On December 22 Parliament declared all colonial vessels to be lawful prize and their crews subject to impressment into the Royal Navy. These were not usual methods of suppressing a rebellion.

In England there was continued urging by colonial sympathizers for withdrawal of the troops. It is highly unlikely there would have been a war if this policy had been adopted. The colonists did not want war and were not yet thinking of independence. But it was unthinkable to most English that the British government should yield to a rebellion.

On New Year's Eve, colonial troops under Montgomery and Arnold besieged Quebec. In the ensuing bloody battle Brother Montgomery was killed and the troops were forced to retreat.

The Colonial Flag



Sir Knights Voelter, Pace

New Jersey, with Past Department Commander Theodore F. Voelter leading the way, has active Bicentennial activities. Above, with Deputy Grand Commander Pace, Sir Knight Voelter poses for an illustration of the uniform, "costing not over \$25.00." He displayed the uniform and the Colonial Flag at the recent 10-State Department Conference at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Below, Grand Captain General Kenneth C. Johnson, standing in front of the Colonial Flag, expresses a Grand Encampment viewpoint at the Conference. Seated, left to right, are Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle, Department Commander Louis A. Beaudoin, Deputy Grand Commander Willard M. Avery and Grand Generalissimo John B. Cottrell, Jr.



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM YOUR *KNIGHT TEMPLAR* MAGAZINE

Christmas offers the opportunity to those who provide you with the *Knight Templar Magazine* and other Grand Encampment office services and supplies to express their personal greetings to you, our readers. May your Christmas Season be bright, and may you long continue to enjoy the Masonic news, views and features in our magazine and the variety of materials available to you from your Grand Encampment office.

Merry Christmas.

Paul C. Rodenhauer, Editor
Grand Recorder, Grand Encampment, U.S.A.



Front row, Grand Encampment office family: Violet Carlson – Secretary to Grand Recorder; John G. Mueller – Mail Room; Marian Carroll – Publications Assistant; Robert Bigley – Grand Recorder's Assistant; Colleen Burritt – Editorial Assistant; Joe Buklis – charge d'affaires mail, duplicating; Bernice Powell – Accounting; Jan Hapgood – Controller.

Back row greetings from: Caroline Schneider – Clerical; Norma Solomon – data processing Computer and Terminal operator; Ellen Solomon – Terminal Operator; Carol Prestidge – Key punching, updating, microfilming; Ellen Sjoquist – data processing Systems Controller; Carol Mueller – receptionist, typist, secretarial assistant; Janice Murphy – Dictaphone Transcriber, secretary.





AT CHRISTMAS

A man is at his finest towards the finish of the
year;
He is almost what he should be when the
Christmas season's here;
Then he's thinking more of others than he's
thought the months before,
And the laughter of his children is a joy worth
toiling for.
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;
When the Christmas spirit rules him he comes close
to the sublime.

Man is ever in a struggle and he's oft
misunderstood;
There are days the worst that's in him is the
master of the good,
But at Christmas kindness rules him and he puts
himself aside
And his petty hates are vanquished and his heart is
opened wide.
Oh, I don't know how to say it, but somehow it
seems to me
That at Christmas man is almost what God sent
him here to be.

Excerpts from a poem by
Sir Knight Edgar A. Guest
1881 – 1959
Detroit Commandery No. 1, Michigan